THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) and (b) Forty per cent of the land mass of the country is prone to floods. During the current year, the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal reported floods of varying magnitude during the South-West Monsoon period-2003. The Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) allocations to these States for the year 2003-04 are Rs. 1591.31 crore of which the Central Share is Rs. 1193.49 crore. These States have utilized funds out of the corpus of CRF for undertaking flood relief measures. In addition, an amount of Rs. 104.43 crore has been released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to the State of Orissa. The requests of the State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karanataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh for financial assistance from NCCF are under process.

(c) As per the preliminary reports received from the State Governments, 1992 human lives lost in the floods of 2003. As per the norms, the next of the kin of those killed in floods are required to be paid Rs. 50,000/- in each case. The distribution of relief including ex-gratia is the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

Declaration of floods in Assam as National Calamity

838. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Assam requested the Central Government to declare the floods which ravaged the State in the Monsoon this year as a National Calamity;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) the specific assistance given to the Government of Assam to deal with the serious situation arising out of the devastating floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) and (b) The Chief Minister of Assam had requested the Central Government to declare the floods and erosion problem in Assam as a national problem.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertaken preparedness and mitigation measures besides measures for response and relief after natural disasters. However, the concerned Ministries of the Government of India keep in constant touch with the State Government and wherever required provide necessary logistic and financial support at the national level.

(c) An inter-Ministerial central Team visited Assam to assess the situation and the requirement of funds for the floods of 2003. Keeping in view the report of the Central Team, and the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group thereon, the requirement of funds for relief was assessed at Rs. 70.72 crore. However, it was noted that an amount of Rs. 158.61 crore was already available with the State Government in the corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to which the Central Government contributes 75%. No further assistance was therefore required to be released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund. The State Government was requested to undertake relief measures for the flood affected people out of the CRF.

Freedom fighter's pensions to Satyagrahis in Goa during 1954-55

839. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to sanction Pension to persons from Maharashtra and other States for offering Satyagraha in Goa during 1954-55;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Government records prove the participation of these people, selected for pensions, in the Satyagraha;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the basis on which these people are selected for the pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to grant pension, to the Satyagrahis of the States of Manarashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, under the Scheme of "Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980" for their participation during the Phase-II of the Goa Liberation Movement (1954-55).